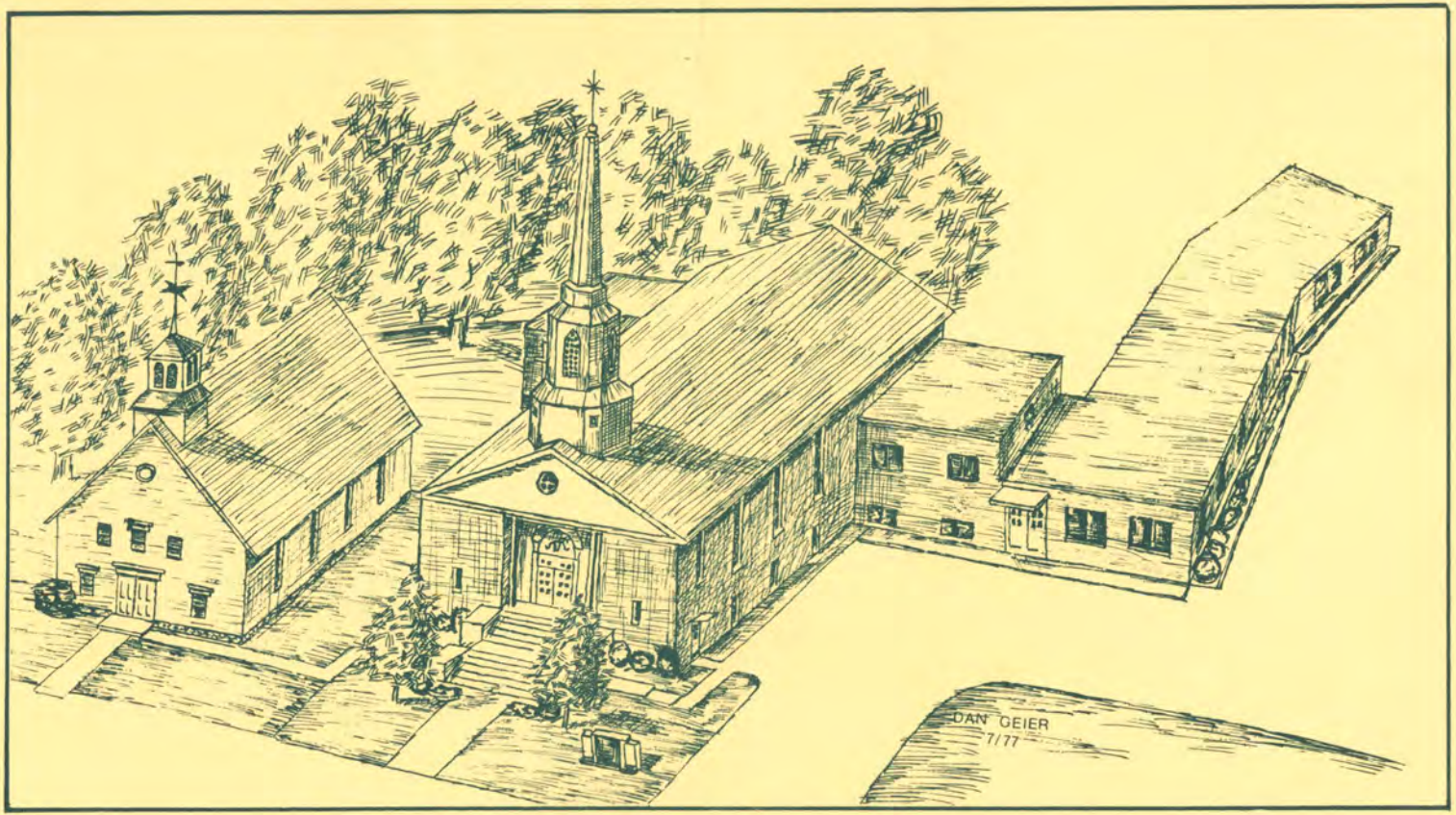
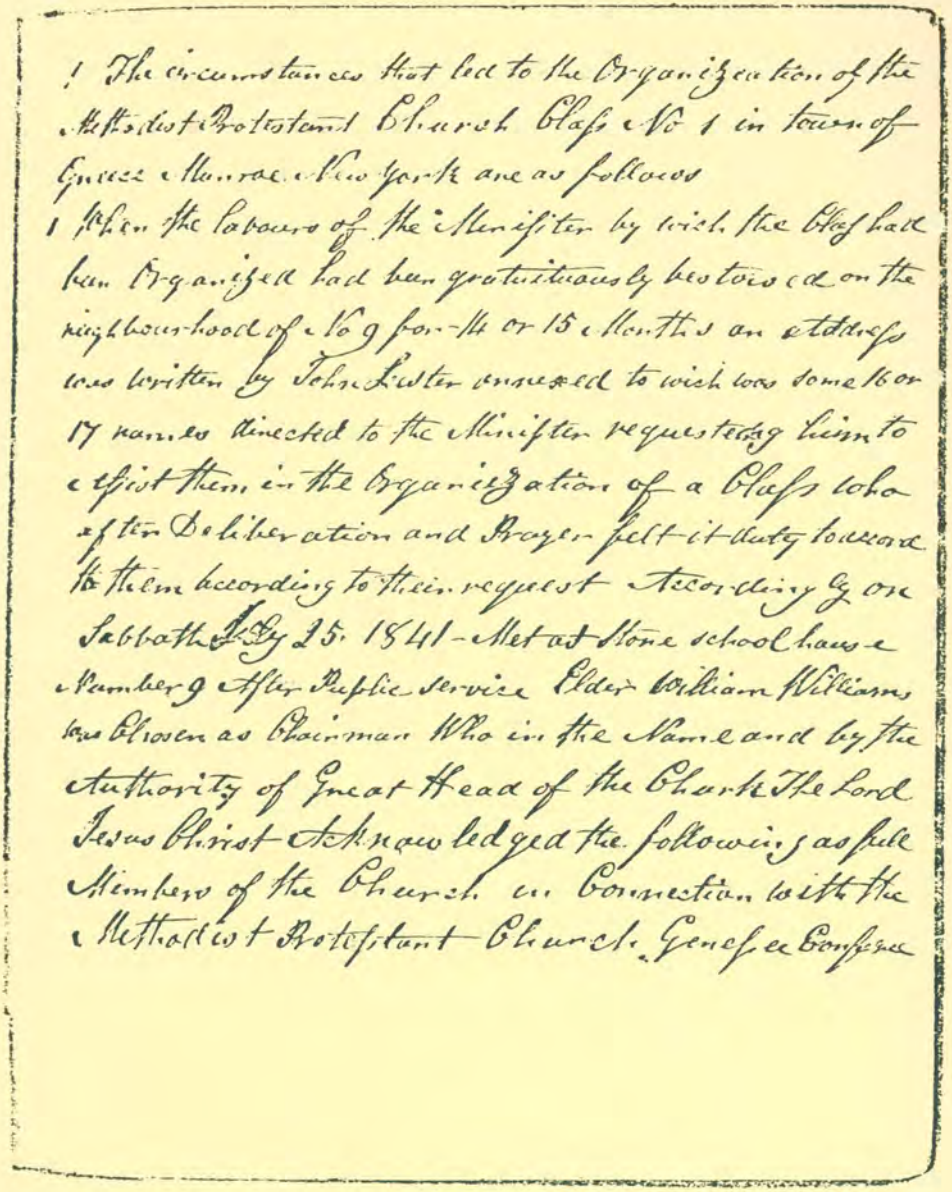


1841 Celebration 1977



1 The circumstances that led to the Organization of the Methodist Protestant Church Class No 1 in town of Greece Monroe New York are as follows

1 When the Labours of the Minister by wish the Class had been Organized had been gratuitiously bestowed on the neighbourhood of No 9 for 14 or 15 Months an address was written by John Lester unnessed to wish was some 16 or 17 names directed to the Minister requesting him to exist them in the Organization of a Class who after Deliberation and Prayer felt it duty to accord to them according to their request Accordingly on Sabbath Eve July 25. 1841 - Met at Stone school house Number 9 After Public service Elder William Williams was Chosen as Chairman Who in the Name and by the Authority of Great Head of the Church The Lord Jesus Christ Acknowledged the following as full Members of the Church in Connection with the Methodist Protestant Church. Genesee Conference

Page from notebook (recently discovered) showing minutes of meeting, July 25, 1841, when our church was organized.

Celebration

OCTOBER
~~September~~ 23, 1977

It is the intent of this publication to acknowledge and record the fulfillment of an important goal -- the elimination of the debt on our Church and Educational Building. In a spirit of prayerful thankfulness we would like to celebrate this achievement.

It has taken nearly a quarter century to bring into existance the physical structure we now proudly call -- our church. We are indebted to the devoted people who, during these years, have given so generously of their time and financial assistance. In an even greater degree we are grateful to our Heavenly Father for His guidance and loving care as we have tried to enlarge His work here.

It is with a genuine spirit of joyful thanksgiving that we celebrate this new milestone in the long one-hundred-and-thirty-six year history of the Greece United Methodist Church

GREECE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1924 Maiden Lane, Rochester, N. Y. 14626

LEST WE FORGET

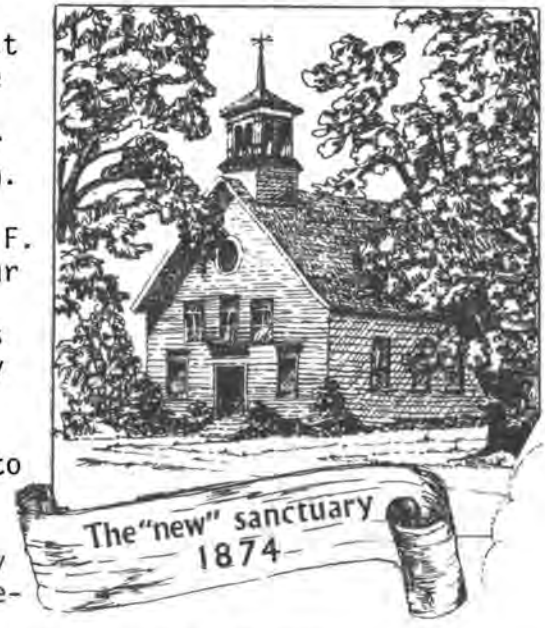
In celebrating our achievements of recent years we must not forget the early history of our church which provided a long line of devoted people who laid the foundation for our church of today.

Briefly, let us turn back our thoughts to the beginning of our adventure in corporate Christian Worship. Around the year 1840 Methodist Circuit Riders were visiting the farming areas of western New York endeavoring to develop units of worship.

In this area, a few families had been meeting for worship in the Stone School House which was located on Long Pond Rd. about a quarter mile north of Maiden Lane. Rev. William Williams was their leader. Sensing their sincerity, he called a meeting for Sunday the 25th of July 1841 to consider the formation of a Methodist Protestant Church. Just a few years ago a notebook was discovered which contains the minutes of that historic meeting and also church records for several years thereafter. (See inside front cover)

As membership gradually increased over the years, three different buildings were used as houses of worship. A more detailed history of these early years is recorded in a publication "Ye Are God's Building" which was published in 1953.

With this brief tribute to the past we must relate the exciting growth years known to our present generation.



In 1948 Dr. James F. Bisgrove became our minister just as the post-war years were bringing many new residents to our community and many new members to our church. Because of his excellent ministry the church soon became overcrowded and two Sunday services were necessary.

In 1951 the Official Board established a "Building Fund" but little did they realize where the path would lead in the years ahead.

At first it was thought that the old church could be enlarged with an educational building added to the east. Following many lengthy meetings and after listening to numerous questionable suggestions Merton McNeil proposed a radical idea. "Let us scrap these patched-up plans," he said, "and build a new church that will show our faith and will be a fitting heritage for our children and the coming generations." That turned the tide and plans for a new sanctuary were authorized.

Dr. Bisgrove, then past retirement age, could forsee the busy years ahead and realized that a younger minister should take up the work. At that time, however, the building needs were well defined and an architect was about to be hired.

Still standing after 103 years of service.

In 1953 the Rev. Leonard P. Ives became our minister and guided us through the intensive planning months and during the construction period.

On February 20, 1955, a congregational meeting approved the final plans and voted to authorize construction. The vote was 102 in favor with 4 "no" votes. Only a fraction of the necessary funds were available in cash or in pledges, but with abundant faith, arrangements for additional borrowings were consummated.

The cornerstone was laid on October 23, 1955. In a metal box within the stone were placed many items of historical interest which we hope will be appreciated by some future generation.

The last service in the old church on September 2, 1956 was a time of mixed emotions -- the little white church on Maiden Lane will long be remembered by those who worshiped there.

Cornerstone Ceremony, Oct. 23, 1955. L to R: Gordon Howe, Greece Supervisor; Rev. Charles Bollinger, District Supt.; Rev. Ives; Dr. Bisgrove; Dr. G. C. Weaver; Charles Weaver; Howard Justice.

Enthusiasm was high as the church exterior neared completion. The tower had been put in place topped by the beautiful stainless steel cross. Inside there were no seats. Because funds were not available it was thought that chairs could be used for a time. With such a beautiful church becoming a reality it was decided that we must have new pews. A program of Memorial Gifts was started, the pews became a reality and many memorial plaques now pay tribute to friends and loved ones.

With many helping hands the new church was made ready for the opening service on the following Sunday when the church was filled beyond it's seating capacity. The Service of Consecration was held on September 30 with Bishop W. Earl Ledden as our guest.

Even during the planning period it was recognized that "some day" additional space for educational facilities would be needed. The architectural plans provided for an addition to the east -- but more land was necessary for the building and for an enlarged parking area.

REV. LEONARD P. IVES

(1953-1961)

Previous to my coming to Greece, Dr. Bisgrove, a retired but very able minister of Christ our Lord, had prepared the way for our building program. One of the most interesting money-raising events which he sponsored was a "Talent Program". After a Sunday service at which he preached about using your talents, ten-dollar bills were given to members of the congregation. They were instructed to invest their talents and bring the increase back to the church at a future date. After several months of enjoyable activity a sizeable return greatly helped the building fund.

When preliminary decisions had to be made regarding construction, I believe we had something like $32,000. This included money raised from many activities: the annual auction, turkey dinners etc.

The ground was broken before we had the ceremony for ground breaking, so we had that program in the hole in the ground. We certainly needed a larger sanctuary and I am sure that some can remember the two services and the Easter when I had to preach from the doorway between the church and hall to reach the over-flow congregation.

How well I remember the daily checking by our good friend Howard Justice as he went by on his way to work.

It seemed that the church was almost a year in the building process and was nearing completion -- but we had made no provision for pews. We thought that we would have to use chairs, but one day Carol Keppler, daughter of Chet and Mundy, brought in 57¢ from her bank and told us she wanted a place to sit. That did it! People gave money for memorial pews and they were soon ordered.

By late fall 1955 construction was well under way. Here Rev. Ives is seen in front entrance.

The week before the church was to be opened was a busy one. On Saturday many loyal people came to wash windows.

It was a great day when the church was opened for Sunday worship -- September 9, 1956.

Somewhere in this period I preached on the text from Genesis 28:17 -- "This is none other than the house of God and this is the gate of heaven". When Bishop Ledden came for the consecration service he asked me, "Did you use that Text?". I replied, "Yes". "Well", he said, "That is mine, too". It was a great day!

After we had done some waterproofing in the basement, we decided to put down tile, so a program "Tile With a Smile" was started. I "helped" to install the tile by putting down two wrong-side-up which prompted someone to say "Brother Ives, haven't you something to do up in your study?"

1962 -- Note building behind old church, also small parking lot.

There is a story about the tower. It was built on the ground and lifted into place by a crane. This was unusual and TV cameras were out to capture the scene. After the tower was in place, the cross was lifted, with a worker, into position. It was a difficult task to watch.

Now with the added land and the educational building you have gone on to a truly great accomplishment. It seems that the "difficult" you did right away, the "impossible" took a little longer. Sacrifice was built into its very walls and may Christ our Lord bless you in this Celebration.

Rev. Leonard P. Ives
31 Country Lane
Longview, TX 75601

REV. PAUL H. HUYETT
(1961 - 1964)

The actual moving to Greece from Bath was a rather exciting, if not hectic experience. The moving vans did not load up at the Bath parsonage until the middle of Saturday afternoon; consequently we did not arrive in Greece until late that evening. A delicious dinner prepared by some members of the church was waiting for us.

We will never forget the new, freshly dyed red towels in the parsonage. The dye was not very permanent, so all four of us appeared that first Sunday in church with slightly red faces. Be that as it may, we were royally received by the good people of Greece and welcomed with a fellowship dinner following the morning service.

I well remember the many folks who helped to make our pastorate a fruitful one. To name a few, there was Chet Keppler, serving as chairman of the ushers. Chet always spotted newcomers and faithfully passed on their names and addresses for my visits the following week. There was also Elbert Samson, Chairman of the Official Board, who along with Ethel were real friends of the pastor.

Dale Smith served faithfully as chairman of the Finance Committee. I remember that during the first few months the finances were at a low level but by the time my pastorate ended there was a balance in the treasury of over $5,000 as well as adequate funds in the debt retirement account.

Among some of the achievements during my pastorate was the purchase of 10.6 acres of land adjacent to the church property for future expansion and additional parking space. Following the purchase, a Capital Funds Campaign raised about $80,000 in cash and pledges, if my memory serves me correctly.

Rev. Huyett instructs youth membership class.

Rev. Carl Johnson, a student from Colgate Rochester Divinity School, was added to our staff to work with the youth on weekends. Carl and his wife became a great asset to our church for the two years they were with us.

Audrey Grape was our efficient church secretary, and upon her resignation I appointed Alice Guido, your present secretary, to fill her place.

Membership-wise, I had the privilege of receiving about eighty people into the church fellowship each year. Outstanding in my mind were the large membership training classes of youth. One year 40 young people and another year 42 united with the church on Palm Sunday.

During our stay at Greece, Mrs. Huyett was active in the Woman's Society of Christian Service and other groups within the fellowship. She also served

For over 55 years this building served many purposes. The second floor contained several classrooms, the lower floor served as a dining hall, a basketball court, a meeting room, and on Sundays portable partitions provided classrooms. The kitchen, at right, was where many delightful meals were prepared and where the water pipes froze solid each winter. Building was dismantled in 1967.

for two years as president of the Rochester District WSCS and on the Board of the Rochester Methodist Home.

We are both well, and are enjoying our retirement home in Ormond Beach, Florida. We spend the summer months at our cottage at Silver Lake, N. Y. Nancy is a graduate of Florida Southern College and is in her sixth year of teaching school in Virginia Beach, Va. John was graduated from the University of North Carolina and is married. He has a Certified Public Accountant license and is working for Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., a nationally known firm in Tampa, Fl.

Rev. & Mrs. Paul H. Huyett
51 Hibiscus Drive
Ormond Beach, Fl. 32074

ERNEST W. KERRISON

(1964 - 19)

When Joan and I were appointed to Greece Methodist in 1964, the church was on the edge of a second surge of growth. The people here had seen the need for expanded facilities, but, I suspect, had no real awareness of the extent of that growth. I recall hearing that "building" was probably some five years in the future.

At that time the elementary grades were all located in the basement of the present sanctuary building; and the nursery, kindergarten and youth in the old church and a connecting hall which is no longer standing. It was obvious within a year that we could not wait five years for an educational unit -- we held our breath every time we had to put kindergarteners on the second floor of that old building. So a Building Committee was formed and an architect hired, only to discover months later that his plans were far too costly.

The architect was released and a draftsman for the Hopeman Company developed plans, which Marlin Sankel had sketched several months before, making use of stock materials and keeping within our budget. By June of 1966 we were ready to build; however, the banks which in the spring were very willing to lend us money now had none. Finally, in the fall, we were able to borrow the $175,000 we needed from the Board of Missions at 6%, and the building was begun.

We consecrated the new facility on May 14, 1967, with Bishop Ward and Dr. Clement Yinger, district superintendent, leading us in our celebration. We are happy with what we feel is a most functional educational unit with four offices for staff, thirteen classrooms, the necessary supporting facilities for these and a large kitchen.

With our coming to Greece, we had suggested the

Financial campaign "Mission '67" made building program possible. L to R: Bob Klink, Rev. Kerrison, Dale Smith, Marlin Sankel.

hiring of an educational assistant to support the teachers necessary for such a large group of children; Joan Smith was hired. Shortly thereafter Sylvia Krol joined the staff as Administrative Assistant, seeing to the details of administration and some parish visitation. All this time Alice Guido had been our efficient church secretary, taking on more than she had bargained for, I think, with all the extra work necessary in the development of a building, the fund drive, and the limited office equipment we had at the time.

With the development of staff, program also developed. On September 7, 1969, we switched the hour

of service from church school at 9:45 and church at 11:00, to church hour at 10:00 and church school following. As a result the adult program has been greatly enlarged, teachers are better enabled to be a part of the whole church program, and an expanded church school session has been successful.

Since those days of exciting physical change, we have also changed staff members. After Joan Smith left, Elaine Smith and Phyllis Girolmo filled in as educational assistant for a six-month period until Sara Kennedy came. When Sara left to be married, Lois Hall, who had been our financial secretary, took over administrative work along with her financial tasks, as Sylvia Krol moved into the educational assistant's chair. Shirley Larson followed Sylvia, and has just recently announced her resignation to pick up her career in public school music. So now Gloria Barwald has consented to fill this very important task in our church. Our children are, indeed, our future, and we have been and are fortunate in our leadership here.

I am sure that you would want me to speak of the music program. Upon our coming, Howard Justice was senior choir director and Shirley Geier, organist. It had been that way for some years and it seemed that it would continue, for no one ever believed that Howard would retire -- but he did! Shirley Larson, who had been working with our Junior choir, consented to take also the senior choir, later to discover her duties as educational assistant conflicted at some crucial points. Sue Frey was then called upon to lead the choir, until feeling that she must resign because of family responsibilities. We have been most fortunate in having gained the services of Phyllis Mitchell. In the meantime, Shirley Geier has continued at the organ, teaching church school during one period, at the same time raising a family.

I would like to list all those who have worked at supporting the program of the church in these last

With all plans approved and the contractor ready to start work, the Groundbreaking Ceremony was scheduled for October 16, 1966. One thing was not planned -- the rain. It poured, so that the ceremony had to be held inside. L to R: Dale Smith, Elbert Samson, Joan Smith, John Girolmo, Rev. Kerrison, Rev. Yinger, Priscilla Moulds, Tom Beveridge, and Marlin Sankel.

13 years, but the listing alone would be too long for this space -- you know who you are, and of our great appreciation.

During this period from 1964 until the present, the membership of the church has increased from 861 to today's 1139, but 917 people have joined the church in that same period, indicating the movement of people in this community.

This is a great church, and its true greatness remains yet to be seen -- Joan and I have felt it a privilege to have worked with you during these eventful years. Not many pastors are privileged to build and then remain long enough to see the debt paid. We thank you for that and for the joys you have brought to us in so many ways.

THE NEW EDUCATIONAL BUILDING

Marlin Sankel
Co-Chairman Building Committee

Reminisce with me and visualize our church educational facilities such as they were 20 years ago -- a white two-story frame building attached to the present old church which had been remodeled into classrooms. The present fellowship hall area was divided for classroom use with movable partitions. The dedicated teachers bringing the Bible to life but under very adverse conditions.

A group called the space committee filed their report to the Official Board stating that we were out of space and the area we had was unsuitable for our educational needs.

So our journey began. An additional 10 acres of land to the east was purchased on 1963. A building committee was created to develop our need and ideas. We visited other churches to view their educational buildings and learn from their experiences. Many meetings followed with various groups to compile information, each session culminating in good fellowship over dessert.

An architect was procured and plans were developed for congregational approval.

Meanwhile "Mission '67", under the guidance of Dale Smith, was launched and successfully completed as our members gave their financial support for this endeavor.

We layed out with ropes and markings the building and rooms as they would be built on our property. Howard Justice built a scale model and it was from this that we saw the need of a window in the upper-level corridor for light at the top of the stair by the offices.

Placing Cornerstone. L to R: Edward Geier, Marlin Sankel.

We obtained church approval of the plans, established a price, secured a contractor and the summer of '66 found us searching for a much needed loan in a tight financial market. In September our own Board of Missions responded to our need and construction commenced with a ground-breaking ceremony on October 16, 1966. Construction continued through the winter with the building sides enclosed in a polyethelene carrier as bricks and blocks were laid in place.

February found many of our church men constructing wood furnishings in the home workshops. Connie Bullen made our drapes. March and April we were installing shelving, blackboards and tack-boards as well as cleaning up and moving from our old quarters. Approximately 500 hours of volunteer time was given by many devoted church members.

With the construction phase completed, our cornerstone was set in place and we had a service of consecration on May 14, 1967. My involvement had ended

With excellent cooperation from the contractor, the building, containing 13 classrooms, 4 offices, and a fine new kitchen, was completed in 7 months. Following the service of Concecration on May 14, 1967 this picture was taken showing (L to R): W. Ralph Ward, Bishop of the Syracuse area; Mrs. Kerrison; Rev. Kerrison; Mrs. Yinger; and Rev. Yinger, District Superintendent.

and, as I look back, it is not the fact that our goal had been reached that I remember best, but the many experiences and fine people I had encountered along the way.

May I express my sincere appreciation to the Kerrisons, to Bob Klink my co-chairman, Dale Smith, our building committee members and everyone who supported this venture with their time and their talents.

MEMORIAL DEDICATED -- The redecorated Memorial Lounge was dedicated on September 11, 1977 in memory of Mrs. Gloria Irwin, Mr. Earl Kenny, Mrs. June Palmer, and Mr. Robert Lott.

CHURCH SCHOOL AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

EDITORS' NOTE: Because of lack of space we regret that we could not include the detailed reports prepared by Sylvia Krol and Shirley Larson. Copies of their complete stories may be obtained at the church office.

(Excerpts from Sylvia's report)

"With the completion of the church building in 1956 we were able to expand our church school facilities by using the sanctuary of the old church as well as the lower level of the new church. Room dividers and curtains helped to absorb some of the noise and distractions between classes but still one could not help but hear the happy chatter and laughter of the children. This condition 'cried' for better facilities. Starting with a donation of $1.00 from Jim Coe, then a second grade student, dreams of a new Educational Building evolved."

"I shall never forget the sincerity, warmth and friendliness of the many people with whom I worked."

"Many of my happiest, hectic, enthusiastic and most challenging moments were spent with our young people on retreat at Silver Lake, If only all of you could experience the fun and laughter of young people hard at work and the beautiful feeling of reverence shown by them during moments of worship."

Sylvia's philosophy of life is well stated in her closing paragraph. "God needs each of us to carry on His work in the church today. We cannot all cross mountains or build bridges but each of us can use the gifts God has given us to help our church, our friends, and most important of all, our children, to become more Christ-like through our thoughts, our words, and our actions. Isn't that really the greatest challenge of all?"

From Church School to Church Members -- 1977 Confirmation Class.

(Excerpts from Shirley's report)

"This was the fall of 1972 -- church school was staffed and curriculum was in. It was only the new Educational Assistant who didn't know where to begin. Nevertheless, church school classes were held, thanks to the many volunteer teachers."

The next spring 25 teenagers went on a UMYF retreat. "It was an unqualified success with young people having fun yet thinking about God -- about Jesus Christ and the message His life has for us."

"We have two large and active youth groups, each with extremely dedicated, organized and competent councelors. Our present Youth Councelors are: Senior High, Ken and Sandy Darling, Anita Freeman, John Brenner; Junior High: Bill and Barb Brado."

Each Sunday planned study is provided for several age

Part of Educational Building as viewed from parking lot.

groups: two through five year olds, first through sixth grades, junior high, senior high, and several adult discussion groups.

The Commission on Education agreed on this statement as to their feeling toward their purpose -- "Christian Education brings the church into our life and life into our church."

"We as a congregation have the choice constantly before us as to whether our church school is to be a strong, functioning educational unit, or a sort of secondary activity to corporate worship."

"This history shows, I think, that Greece Methodist people are constantly involved in their church school -- as teachers and counselors, and as people who want their children in church school on Sundays."

"It has been an honor for me to be able to contribute my share to this story of the history of Greece church, for on our history we build our future."

CHOIRS

Greece United Methodist Church has always been known as a singing church as over the years the Senior, Junior, and Cherub Choirs have led the congregation in worship and song. All three choirs are made up of loyal volunteer members who enjoy singing and want to use their talent to promote music in the church.

The Senior Choir has always had capable leadership with Howard Justice, who directed for approximately 40 years until his retirement in 1973, Shirley Larson, Sue Frey, and at present Phyllis Mitchell. Our organist, Shirley Geier, has been accompanying the choir for the past 20 years with Gene Sutliff substituting occasionally.

Besides enriching the regular Sunday worship services with their voices, the Senior Choir has sung for many special programs, such as the traditional Christmas Candlelighting Service, Passion Sunday cantatas, and Easter Services. Several years ago, our church was involved in annual Choir Festivals in which church choirs from the community combined for a massed choir of some 125 voices. The Senior Choir has also sung at Annual Conference, once at Asbury First Church and again at Roberts Wesleyan.

The Junior Choir is made up of many enthusiastic young people from 4th through 8th grades. They have had several directors since the early fifties beginning with Ethel Samson, who led them for many years. Most recently Shirley Larson directed the choir in the newer musical sounds of folk music and contemporary songs and cantatas, such as "Jonah-Man-Jazz".

The Cherub Choir uses the voices of our smallest singers, the 5 through 8 year olds, and have been a delight to our Sunday morning service. Sue Frey was the most recent director of this group.

For the past five years, the Music Committee has

Senior Choir in 1971 when we were fortunate to have several outstanding high school musicians with us.

sponsored a Talent Night, in which many of our children and adults have demonstrated their talents. It has been a fun night, but, in addition, the proceeds purchased a new piano for the Fellowship Hall.

We are fortunate in our church to have these fine talents available to draw from for our music program.

EDITORS' NOTE: Because of lack of space we regret that we could not include Shirley Larson's report on the very successful Junior Choir program. Copies of her complete story have been prepared and may be obtained at the church office.

MEMORIAL DEDICATED -- New choir robes for the senior choir were dedicated on September 11, 1977 in memory of Mr. Frank Thome, Mr. Lyall Ketchum and Mr. Gordon Green.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The charter meeting of the Woman's Society of Christian Service was held in our old church on September 20, 1940. Signing the charter were 16 members, 5 of whom still belong -- Luella Happ, Hazel Herrick, Rosamond Keppler, Grace VanPutte, and Gladys Weaver. In 1968 with the uniting of the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren Churches, the name was changed slightly to Women's Society of Christian Service, and again in 1973 it became the United Methodist Women.

Until circles were formed in 1955, the WSCS held monthly general meetings. At present five circles, now called sub-groups, meet monthly with frequent general meetings scheduled during the year. The sub-groups are named after women in the Bible -- Dorcas, Hannah, Martha, Miriam, and Sarah.

Through the years the UMW has been involved in various projects and programs at the local church, community, and even world levels.

During World War II several testaments and goodie boxes were sent to the servicemen from our church. WSCS members also helped run the USO Center (donating time and food), sold war bonds, and contributed sewing and knitting to the Red Cross. At this time with patriotism running high, the women voted that the American flag should be displayed in our church.

At the time of the Vietnam War, the women participated in Operation Morale, sending boxes of baked goods, candy, toiletries and other morale-builders to our servicemen.

Another project the women have concerned themselves with often is collecting and packing blankets and used clothing for Church World Service. These are stockpiled in CWS depots around the world for distribution to victims of a disaster.

The Bazaar -- an annual event sponsored by United Methodist Women.

On the local level the WSCS helped to organize a church library and for many years sponsored the Girl Scout program at our church.

Recently one of the highlights of the year was the annual Christmas Buffet to which husbands were also invited. A most memorable program, "Keeping Christ in Christmas", was presented by Mundy Keppler at the first buffet in 1969, providing a calm break in an otherwise hectic season. For a change of pace, last year a Christmas Breakfast was served instead of the buffet.

Each year since 1944 a life membership, now called a special membership, has been given in honor of a woman who has given outstanding service to the UMW and to our church.

One of the main concerns of the UMW has always been finances. The budget has grown from $275.40 in 1945 to $2880 in 1977. To support these budgets many

ideas for money-making projects have been carried out. In the early days suppers were held -- some costing 35¢ for adults, 25¢ for children.

One year a "money shirt" was passed around -- each member sewing on a patch and tucking some money into it. This netted $17.33 when the patches were removed.

In 1950 a bazaar and supper contributed $262.32 towards a $700 budget. The $1200 profit from the Christmas Bazaar in 1967 has increased to last year's net of $2330.

Moneys from these and countless other projects have been used both for our own church and for missions. Each year a large contribution has been made toward the church's building funds.

The UMW has grown from 16 members to the present 141. Giving leadership to this vital part of our church life is Gwen Saulsbury, our current president.

Our church lawn provides an ideal place for picnics.

FELLOWSHIP CLUB

On November 8, 1958, seven couples met together to make plans for organizing a Couples Club. Two brainstorming sessions produced a purpose, great variety of program ideas, and a slate of officers -- Ring Leaders, Pencil Pushers, Money Bags and Program Chairmen.

The first meeting was held January 24, 1959, with the Larry Donnors, Ed Geiers, and Bill Maginnesses elected as officers and the following purpose adopted: To form a group of married couples who will establish fellowship by bringing new couples into the church and holding those there through fellowship, service projects and social activities; and to have inexpensive, interesting programs. A social hour of games followed along with refreshments and a song fest. The Couples Club was off to a great beginning.

In its early stages a year's program was planned with an established couple and a relatively new couple working together in charge of each event. Each couple attending paid one dollar. For several years the January meeting was traditionally a slide show or travelogue.

At one meeting when officers were being elected, Chet Keppler chose the wrong moment to catch a breath of fresh air and when he returned to the room he discovered he and Roz had been elected Ring Leaders.

The activities have been planned to please everyone at some time, from breakfast hikes, to fossil hunts, raft rides, sledding, bowling, speakers, theater parties, every type of meal imaginable (we do like to eat!) -- from pizza to progressive dinners, campouts, and several delightful weekends at Watson Homestead.

One of the most successful events was the "Happening." The chucklebellies became more popular as the

evening progressed. Remember them? And even some of the committee was surprised by the late-evening raid.

In 1956 it was decided that officers were not needed, but committees were formed instead to carry out the activities. Later the name was changed to "Fellowship Club" so that anyone would feel free to attend -- not just married couples.

Fellowship Club
"Hobo Night"

Guess Who?
(Answers on page 32)

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

The Memorial Fund was first established in 1951 as a part of the Building Fund which was created by the Official Board. As construction of the sanctuary was completed, loved ones were remembered in a permanent memorial identified with a memorial plaque.

In later years the Memorial Committee has been responsible for accepting the money to be used for other fitting memorials, keeping careful records of these purchases, and dedicating them to the service of God. Memorials are recorded in a book and also in the Memorial Case, both found in the narthex of the church.

The Memorial Committee, with Audrey Grape as its chairman, is at present furnishing a room adjacent to our sanctuary as a Memorial Lounge to be used for small weddings, services, and other gatherings in keeping with its purpose.

FLORAL AND ALTAR COMMITTEE

The duties of this committee are fairly obvious -- the care of altar appurtenances and the provision of flowers for the altar. For the past years, Joan Kerrison has been handling the duties of the committee, calling on others when needed.

In the 1960's many lovely arrangements were made from the private gardens of members. Eventually all flowers were ordered from local florists.

Altar flowers are not necessarily always in memory of loved ones, but should be in honor of the living also, such as anniversaries, birthdays, weddings or any special event. Flowers are one of God's most beautiful creations and have a definite place in our worship service.

EMERGENCY SERVICE PROGRAM

Since its inception in 1972, our ESP (Emergency Service Program) has been surrounding with warm and concerned care those church families facing a time of stress or crisis.

The structure is quite simple. Our church membership is divided into seven geographic regions with a chairperson and volunteers in each area. Service is provided on a temporary basis by sending in meals, babysitting, providing transportation and helping in any other way that is needed.

ESP began with 57 volunteers and now involves well over 100, with the number growing. Mary Ann Sherry was instrumental in developing and coordinating ESP and at present Peg Stimson is the administrator.

SCOUTING AT GREECE UNITED METHODIST

BOY SCOUTS -- Troop No. 173, which originally included 10 boys and 13 committeemen, was organized in 1954 by the Methodist Men's Club. During the ensuing years 9 boys have become Eagle Scouts. Outstanding Troop activities include the annual Father and Son campout, participation in the Scoutarama, and the chicken barbecues.

CUB PACK -- Through the years Cub Pack No. 173 has, among other things, supplied many Christmas baskets to needy families, held annual family picnics with pinewood derby race, and a Theme of the Month with skits and crafts.

GIRL SCOUTS -- In 1948 Girl Scout Troop No. 358 was organized and sponsored by the Woman's Society of Christian Service. For over 20 years a program of Brownies, Juniors and Cadettes continued to serve the community.

TRUSTEES

We could not complete this story of church development without a tribute to the Board of Trustees who are responsible for our church property. They are a dedicated group who have served with unusual merit -- with both brain and brawn. Much of the repair work over these "building" years, when funds had to go first to reduce our borrowings, was done by the trustees and other volunteers. The countless hours of skilled and manual labor which they have given has saved thousands of dollars.

The present trustees are: Chairman, James Martin; Thomas Guido; Donald Stimson; William Lewis; Keith Kroon; Dean Tryon; Donald Mattey; Kenneth Keene and Charles Fessler.

OTHER CHURCH LEADERS

Within these pages it would be impossible to list the scores of dedicated people who work in the many activities of the church. We would, however, like to recognize the following: Lay Leader - Richard Vanderzille; Lay Members to Annual Conference - Arthur Herd, Mary Ann Sherry, D. W. Hockridge; Chairman, Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations - Everett Weaver; Chairman, Committee on Finance - Donald Mattey; Church Treasurer - Lois Hall; President, United Methodist Women - Gwen Saulsbury; Chairman, Parsonage Committee - Earl Trost.

FLASH -- As we go to press word has been received from the trustees that on September 7, 1977 the parsonage at 86 Apollo Drive was sold and that a new parsonage has been purchased at 7 Hardwood Lane which is off English Road just east of Long Pond Rd.

May 23, 1976 was Heritage Sunday in recognition of our nation's Bicentennial and our church's 135th birthday. Events included honoring long-time members -- five for over 50 years. Alice Buckman joined in 1907, Hazel Herrick in 1913, both Lloyd Happ and Howard Justice in 1921, and Ann Pearson in 1926. Items of historical interest were on display and many appeared in dress of earlier days. Above: Committee in charge -- L to R: Beverly Sankel, Ann Pearson, Howard Justice, Shirley Geier. Right: Everett Weaver managed to fit into suit worn by his father-in-law, Elmer Justice, at his wedding in 1897.

Answers to question on page 28 -- Top; Alice and Tom Guido. Left; Elaine and Dale Smith. Right; Lois and Jim Hall.

WITH SINCERE THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE HELPED

This publication was made possible with the help of many people who provided pictures and information. We would especially like to thank those who prepared signed articles and also the following: Daniel Geier, a senior at Arcadia High School, who did the cover; Elaine Smith, Larry Donner, Edward Geier, Joan Kerrison, Sylvia Krol, Shirley Larson, Jean Lee, Audrey Grape and Eleanor Start.

Committee on Records and History
Shirley Geier
Beverly Sankel
Ann Pearson
Howard Justice